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Texans latest team to approve decertification
John McClain
Houston Chronicle

Nov. 11--The Texans became the latest team to vote unanimously to give the NFL Players Association permission to decertify as a union if there is a lockout by the owners in March.

In a Wednesday meeting at Reliant Stadium with DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFLPA, the players gave their approval for decertification.

"I think it's a good decision and a good strategy on our part as a union," said middle linebacker DeMeco Ryans, who is the team's union representative. "We need to stick together as a union, everybody believing in what we have and what we're going to do.

"The situation here is that we are faced with a lockout where we want to play but will not be allowed to play."

The nation's antitrust laws prevent unions that are negotiating for a new collective bargaining agreement from suing their employers. The NFLPA is currently negotiating with the owners for a new CBA.

When the union decertifies, it allows the players to sue the owners.

The last time the union decertified was 1989. When the two sides finally reached an agreement on a new CBA in 1993, the players unionized again.

Also Wednesday, the players voted offensive tackle Eric Winston and quarterback Matt Schaub as the alternate representatives.

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---- INDEX REFERENCES ---

COMPANY: CONSTRUCTIONS BREVETEES D'ALFORTVILLE CBA SAS; CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (THE); CREDIT BANK OF ALBANIA SH A; CENTRAL BANK OF ARMENIA; BRASILEIRA DE ALUMINIO; NFL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

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